

IN THE CLAIMS

1-15. (cancelled)

16. (currently amended) A medical implant apparatus comprising:

a plate member having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion and at least one substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said upper portion having a substantially flat upper surface, wherein the intersection of said upper surface and a plane perpendicular to said longitudinal axis forms at least one straight segment, and at least one hole therethrough, said lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion.

17. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said plate member includes a second substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said second lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion.

18. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein said flange pieces of said lower portions extend substantially toward each other.

19. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said upper portion has a length, and said lower portion extends along substantially the entirety of said length.

20. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said upper portion has a side edge, and said lower portion is adjacent said side edge.

21. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said upper portion has a lower surface adjacent said lower portion, and said lower surface of said upper portion is substantially smooth.

22. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:

a washer having an upper surface, a lower surface, and an aperture, said lower surface being adjacent said upper portion of said plate member; and

a nut having a sleeve portion that extends into said aperture.

23. (previously presented) A kit comprising:

a plurality of plate members, at least one of said plate members having an upper portion and at least one substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said upper portion having a substantially flat upper surface and at least one hole therethrough, said lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion;

a plurality of threaded fasteners;

a plurality of nuts, wherein at least one of said nuts is usable with at least one of said fasteners to lock said fastener to at least one of said plate members.

24. (previously presented) The kit of claim 23, further comprising a plurality of washers, wherein at least one of said washers is adapted to fit around at least part of at least one of said fasteners adjacent to at least one of said nuts.

25. (previously presented) The kit of claim 23, wherein said plurality of plate members include at least two plate members having lengths different from each other.

26. (previously presented) The kit of claim 23, wherein said plurality of plate members include a first plate member that is substantially straight, and a second plate member that is non-straight.

27. (previously presented) The kit of claim 23, wherein said plurality of nuts includes at least one nut that is a part of a washer-nut combination wherein the nut and washer of the washer-nut combination are rotatable and translatable with respect to each other.

28. (cancelled without prejudice)

29. (previously presented) The kit of claim 23 wherein a plurality of said plate members have an upper portion and at least one substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said upper portion having a substantially flat upper surface and at least one hole therethrough, said lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion.

30. (previously presented) A stabilizer for use with a medical implant, comprising:

a body having a substantially smooth upper surface, a hole extending through said body and having an axis, said hole having at least one tapered section, and at least one finger extending away from said axis.

31. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said body has an octagonal shape.

32. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said body has a lower surface that is convex.

33. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein said body includes a second finger extending away from said axis, said fingers being substantially diametrically opposed.

34. (new) A medical implant apparatus comprising:

a plate member having an upper portion and at least one substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said upper portion having a substantially flat upper surface and at least one hole therethrough, said lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion, wherein said upper portion has a length, and said lower portion extends along substantially the entirety of said length.

35. (new) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein said plate member has a longitudinal axis, and said hole is on said longitudinal axis.

36. (new) A medical implant apparatus comprising:

a plate member having a longitudinal axis, an upper portion and at least one substantially L-shaped lower portion connected to said upper portion, said upper portion having a substantially flat upper surface and at least one hole therethrough, said lower portion having a flange piece extending substantially parallel to said upper portion, wherein said hole is on said longitudinal axis.